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PATENT

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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being sent via facsimile to: 703-872-9306, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date 4-15-04  
Himanshu S. Amin

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): Parthasarathy, *et al.*

Examiner: Tuan A. Vu

Serial No: 09/604,987

Art Unit: 2124

Filing Date: June 28, 2000

Title: BINDING BY HASH

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED DECEMBER 17, 2003

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Dear Sir:

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any extension fees that may be due in connection with submission of this Reply to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP119US].